

ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION NEWS

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P.O. BOX 1419 NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 02840

Spring, 1991 No. 12

WILL THE REAL ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE PLEASE STAND UP

As much as we cherish our lighthouse, the architecture of the Rose Island building is not unique. Similar two-story, mansard lighthouses with the tower on top were also built further up Narragansett Bay and in Connecticut and New York in Long Island Sound. The top lighthouse picture is the Pomham Rock light owned by Mobil Oil in East Providence. We are grateful to Bill Welliver and Norm Forget for sharing their lighthouse's secrets with us--one of which is its original cistern. We hope to fully restore Rose Island's some day.

Believe it or not, the lower photo is our own Rose Island lighthouse, or at least a gingerbread version of it! Created by pastry architect Lee Eschenheimer (Charlotte Johnson's sister) for their family Christmas, it was respectfully devoured by New Years.

How could anyone resist? After all, the exterior and interior walls were iced gingerbread. The roof was made of Graham Crackers and marshmallows were used as structural support for the tower, which was decorated with licorice shoelace rails and crystal mints for the light lenses. Chocolate and cinnamon candies represented the decorative slate shingles, while angel food cake and peanut brittle were used for the bastion and rocks below.

Great job Lee, and delicious, too!



MAKE WAY FOR THE CHICKS

Anyone who has been out to Rose Island during the spring has a real good insight into what made Alfred Hitchcock's movie "The Birds" so scary. To be sure, when the seagulls are nesting--and especially when their chicks are newly-hatched--Mamma and Papa can be just plain nasty to strangers. So, to protect both species (the humans and the birds, that is) the CRMC has asked us to post notice that there shall be limited public access to the lighthouse from early April to mid-July.



That doesn't include a couple of volunteers working on the lighthouse, though! In fact, our hang-tough carpenter Bob Zeigler regularly goes out to work Monday through Friday, leaving from the Oldport dock at 8:00 AM. If you've ever looked down from the Newport Bridge, seen our flag flying, and wondered who'd be out there on a day like that...it's probably Bob!

Volunteers are encouraged to pack a lunch and go out with Bob any weekday. He can also go out on Saturdays with a small volunteer work party--weather permitting, of course. Call Curt Bunting at 846-4198 to make arrangements.

Volunteer jobs include: paint scraping, sanding and painting, plastering, carpentry, tile laying, plumbing, dock and boat work, plus grounds clean up and typical odd-and-ends.



DAFFODILS BLOOMING ON ROSE ISLAND

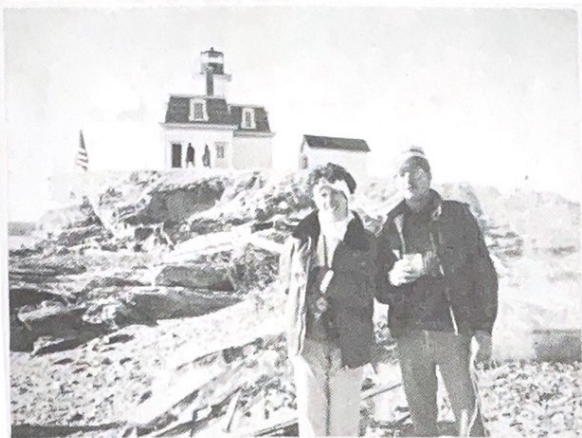
Now, when you see daffodils blooming in Newport, you'll know they're doing it out on Rose Island, too! The handiwork of Anne Reynolds, Jeannie Sanschagrin, Mary Jane Rodman, Mary Lynn Rooke and June Warren is paying off, and beautifully.

It all started last fall when Newport Clean and Green, which is funded by the Heritage Trust of R.I., decided to help us spiff up the garden and donated 100 daffodils and 100 crocuses. Now they're coming up all over! (Anne admitted a few people did chuckle when she called to invite them to bring their shovels out to Rose Island--we suspect someone must have been part mountain goat!) What a nice surprise it is to see flowers once again at the lighthouse. Thanks to all for a job well done!



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Mail all correspondence to: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, P.O. Box 1419, Newport, R.I. 02840. Phone 847-4454, Charlotte E. Johnson, Secretary.



FUD AND KAREN BENSON get warm by the fire on New Year's Day (above). Fud's beautifully lettered signs encouraged picnickers to grab a large bag and forage for trash along the shore. Obviously, Alexis Ackman (below) found it to be an enjoyable task. With their help, along with others, too, by the end of the day, "Elsie" our landing craft had been loaded with a full truck-load of trash, which Chris Barlow later took to the transfer station in Newport. It is a trashy world, folks, so please join us in encouraging people to "bag it" everywhere, but particularly when they're on or near the water. Can you guess what one of our greatest problems was? Cigarette filter butts!



HARBOR SEALS PLAY IN ROSE ISLAND WATERS

Our work folks reported that harbor seals were back during the winter sunning themselves and playing off the northeast shore of Rose Island, on and around Citing Rock. In addition, Charlie Avenengo (who is also a bit of a bird watcher) has been keeping a surprisingly long list of species he's seen or heard at Rose Island, many are migratory. We were also glad to learn that our oystercatchers are back, and only hope they still like the place enough to let us share it with them, if we promise to behave ourselves.



CITY COUNCILLORS JOIN RILF BOARD FOR VISIT TO ROSE ISLAND to study how RILF can help with the State's acquisition and development of the island as a park. Pictured are city councillors Ron Dick (1 above) and Keith Stokes (guiding his children up the gangway in photo below). Keith says his kids keep on asking him, "When are we going out to Rose Island again, Daddy?"

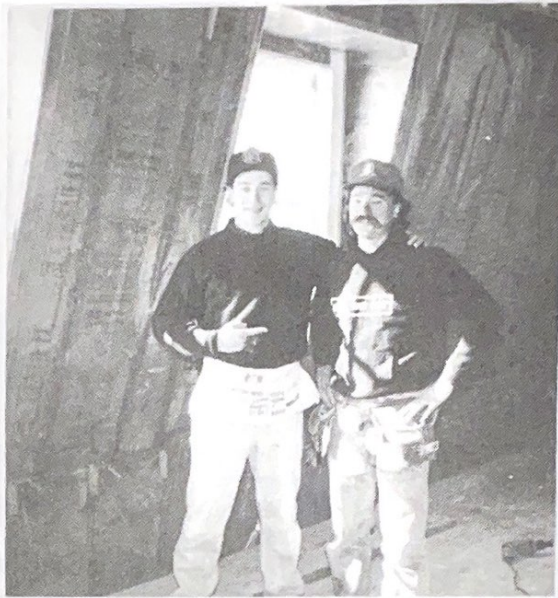




THERE'S CHRIS BARLOW ADDING FUEL TO THE FIRE AGAIN at the New Year's Day picnic. (Carol Martin captured this moment on film.) Folks gathered burnable driftwood to keep us warm and for cooking, while all the plastic and non-burnable trash was brought back to Newport for proper disposal.

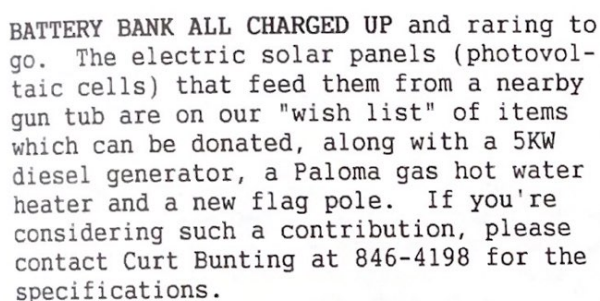


NEW YEARS BIRTHDAY was celebrated by Dale Brown with her friends on Rose Island. Candles and all! What could make a birthday more memorable? Way to go, Dale!



MARK MALKOVICH (l) AND BOB ZEIGLER (r) take a break from insulating work to pose for this photo (above), while Curt Bunting (l below) and Shamrock Electric's Charlie Wright (r) discuss the wiring which Shamrock was kind enough to donate.





This is a good time to remind folks that we send our event notices to current membership list a couple of weeks before announcing them to the public. That's an important edge for events such as our clambake, which is always sold out.

Address: _____
Street
City
State
Zip

Dues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1992 are as follows (please mark one):

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ___ \$ 5 Student/Senior | ___ \$ 50 Inspector | ___ \$ 250 Assistant Keeper * |
| ___ \$10 Individual | ___ \$ 100 Superintendent | ___ \$ 500 Associate Keeper * |
| ___ \$25 Family/Business | | ___ \$1000 Head Keeper * |

* As soon as renovations are complete, initiation for the "Keeper" membership categories will be a night for two at the lighthouse.

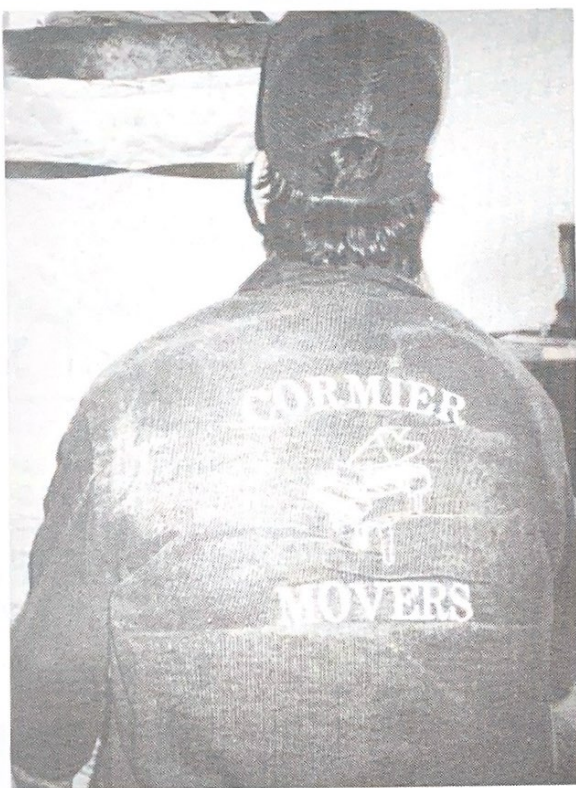
- o Dues (marked above) are enclosed in the amount of \$ _____
- o Additional contribution is enclosed in the amount of \$ _____
- TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

- o I/we would like to volunteer to help, or wish to donate items for the museum as follows: _____

Please note: Membership dues and contributions paid to the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation are deductible within legal limits for U.S. Income Tax purposes. Please mail this form and your payment to:

The Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation
P.O. Box 1419, Newport, RI 02840

Thank You!



PIANO MOVING THEIR SPECIALTY--When we put out the word we were looking for a player piano to use in the music room of the lighthouse museum, we were pleasantly surprised with two donations. One from Walter and Elaine Steere of Johnston and the other from Ed and Michelle Christensen of Newport. After moving the first piano ourselves, we hired Cormier to move the second--and were we glad we did! They made it look like a piece of cake.

As the interior of the lighthouse takes shape this spring, with plaster, paint and trim, we're hoping to get more furniture donations. Specifically, we're looking for brass beds, dressers, small tables, rugs and bookcases from around the turn of this century. Please call Charlotte at 847-4454 if you would like more information.

Of course, if you're wondering what we're going to do with two player pianos...we've got permission to sell one of them at an auction/fundraiser. There will be more news about this, our clambake, plus other events later on.



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